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FOREST SERVICE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ALLEGHENY FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION*

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATIO

Technical Note No. 11

ESTIMATED AREA OF FOREST LAND IN THREE MAJOR FOREST REGIONS OF THE ALLEGHENY FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION TERRITORY

Part of the necessary working knowledge of any particular land area or territory is the extent to which it is divided into major classes of forest vegetation cover, and the acreage of actual and potential forest land within these forest regions by States. The following acreage estimates are based on data supplied by the various States, the United States Census, and other sources.

Area and Percentage of Three Major Forest Regions within Each State of the Allegheny Forest Experiment Station Territory, 1935

(Areas in thousands of acres)

Major forest region	State									
	Pennsylvania		Maryland		New Jersey		Delaware		Total	
	Area	Per cent	Area	Per cent	Area	Per cent	Area	Per cent	Area	Per cent
Oak	8,628	66	938	43	588	30	60	19	10,214	58
Beech-birch-maple	4,457	34	92	4	-	0	-	0	4,549	26
Hard pine-oak	-	0	1,138	53	1,385	70	260	81	2,783	16
Total	13,085	100	2,168	100	1,973	100	320	100	17,546	100

The above table gives estimated acreages of land at present in forest or available for forest production regardless of ownership, but excludes areas shown by the Census to be cleared for agriculture. Abandonment of submarginal agricultural land has added materially to the area of forested and potential forest land in all States of this region in recent decades. This may be expected to continue in the future but at a less rapid rate.

The aggregate area of the oak region, which is synonymous with the oak-chestnut-yellow poplar type, is 10,214,000 acres, or 58 per cent of the total area of all forest land in the territory. This large and important forest area has been extensively logged and damaged by fire and clearing in the past but second-growth stands are productive of lumber, ties, mine props, fuel, and other forest products.

*Maintained at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania.

The beech-birch-maple or northern hardwood region covers 4,549,000 acres of forest land, much of which is in large unbroken tracts and non-agricultural in character. Forest products include lumber, pulpwood, chemical distillation wood, maple sugar, and tan bark. The value of the wild life, watershed protection, and recreational uses is very high.

Coastal Plain forests, known as the hard pine-oak, or the oak-pine region, occupy 2,783,000 acres of forest land in the territory. The unique thing about this vast forest area is its proximity to large centers of population from the metropolitan area of greater New York on the north to Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D. C., on the south. Nearness to markets for forest products, and use of the forest for wild life production and recreation indicate a high potential value for this region. The light sandy soils are locally valuable for truck farming. Forest fires are the chief agency deteriorating the value of forests in this region and control of fires is a basic necessity for the rehabilitation and best use of these lands.

The territory of the Allegheny Section of the Society of American Foresters includes Virginia and West Virginia in addition to the four States shown. In this territory 42,046,000 acres of forest land is the estimated total of which 71 per cent is in the oak region, 15 per cent in the hard pine-oak region, and about 14 per cent in the beech-birch-maple region. An area of 159,000 acres in West Virginia is estimated to be in the red spruce region but this is less than 1 per cent of the total forested area in the territory of the Allegheny Section.

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May 21, 1936